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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,005	08/22/2003	Michael J. Greenside	200208936-1	8952

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EXAMINER


LAVINDER, JACK W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3677

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/646,005	GREENSIDE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jack W. Lavinder	3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-13, 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fletcher, 5293303.

3. Regarding claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 11, 12, 16 and 17, Fletcher discloses

- A first member (8) having a slot (9) operable to be attached to a chassis
- A second member having a lip (36, 41, 43, figure 4) and a hole (hole in dotted line configuration just below numeral 32 in figure 4), which is operable to receive a screw (see screw head just below bracket element, 13, figures 3 and 4) and to attach the second member to the side (16) of the sub-assembly (14)
- A latch guide (right side of element 33), which contacts and surrounds a guide member (32) to prevent over-rotation when the sub-assembly is not engaged with the chassis
- A latch guide that also contacts the slot edge in the first member via the lip (36, 41, 42, figure 5) to prevent over-rotation

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- A first and second electrical connectors, one on the sub-assembly and the other on the chassis (12, col. 3, last paragraph and col. 4, first few lines)

Regarding claim 9, Fletcher discloses a screw for rotatably attaching the second member to the sub-assembly, i.e., the screw, when loose, allows for the rotatable adjustment of the second member relative to the first member in order to achieve the proper alignment between the members so that the latch functions properly.

Regarding claim 13, Fletcher discloses a screw, which attaches the second member (32,33) to the side (16) of the sub-assembly. This screw forces the first connector (8) to mate with the second connector (32,33) when the screw is tightened. This is achieved by rotatably adjusting the second connector in order for it to be in proper alignment with the first connector (5, 8) and then tightening the screw so that it forces the lip (36, 41, 42) to engage the slot (9) when the second connector is rotated in the clockwise direction.

Regarding claim 15, the sub-assembly has a stop at the rear of the sub-assembly to maintain a minimum distance between the rear of the receptacle (5) and the sub-assembly (11). The stop is the outer housing of the electrical connector (12).

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Regarding claim 18, Fletcher discloses the method step of tightening a screw (38) that attaches the first latch member (33) to the sub-assembly (32) after engaging the lip with the slot (col. 4, lines 62-66).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fletcher in view of Frank, Jr., 6297955.

6. Fletcher fails to specifically show a stop disposed on the receptacle. Frank, Jr. discloses the use of an elastic stop (288, col. 10, lines 52-55, figure 7) on the rear end of the receptacle

“for reducing a shock force when the cavity fully receives the module and when the module connector engages the host connector”


It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to put an elastic stop in Fletcher's device, as taught by Frank, Jr., for reducing a shock force on the module and receptacle in order to prevent failures and to increase the useful life of the device.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack W. Lavinder whose telephone number is 703-308-3421. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday, 9-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 703-306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jack W Lavinder
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

12/10/04